

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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TAGS: TOCY, UK, XV

SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC TREATY NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING:
FAO REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE

1. FAO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL H. WATZINGER SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER DATED AUGUST 10 TO JOHN HEAP OF UK FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, POLAR REGIONS SECTION, SUGGESTING HOW FAO MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN THE LIVING RESOURCES DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT MEETING.

2. QUOTE: SINCE YOU ATTENDED THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF OUR COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES WHICH MET IN ROME FROM 19 TO 26 APRIL 1977, YOU ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY THE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE USE OF THE RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN OCEANS.

YOU WILL REMEMBER IN PARTICULAR THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT FAO HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY WITHIN ITS COMPETENCE IN REGARD TO THESE RESOURCES. THIS WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A PROPER AND LEGITIMATE FAO ACTIVITY IN VIEW BOTH OF ITS TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND ITS SPECIAL DUTY TOWARDS THE DEVELOPING WORLD. THE COMMITTEE ALSO AGREED THAT ANY FUTURE ACTIV-

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ITIES SHOULD ONLY BE UNDERTAKEN IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE COASTAL STATES IN THE AREA, THE APPROPRIATE SCIENTIFIC BODIES AND, AS REGARDS THE AREA COVERED BY THE ANTARCTIC TREATY, IN CLOSE COOPERATIVE WORKING RELATIONS WITH THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY. I WOULD STRESS IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION THAT THE EXPRESSION USED BY THE COMMITTEE IN ITS REPORT REPRODUCES THE TERMS OF THE

ANTARCTIC TREATY ITSELF, WHICH PROVIDES IN ARTICLE III-2 THAT "EVERY ENCOURAGEMENT SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COOPERATIVE WORKING RELATIONS WITH THOSE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVING A SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL INTEREST IN ANTARCTICA."

AS THE PARTIES TO THE ANTARCTIC TREATY, AT THE FORTHCOMING NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING, ARE TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT OF LIVING RESOURCES IN THE AREA, I FEEL IT WOULD BE NOT ONLY APPROPRIATE BUT ALSO MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL IF AN OPPORTUNITY WAS GIVEN TO FAO TO DESCRIBE ITS RELEVANT PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING THE PREPARATION OF COMPREHENSIVE REPORTS ON THE BIOLOGICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE MAJOR MARINE RESOURCES INVOLVED, AND ALSO TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ANY ACTIVITY THAT THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY MIGHT UNDERTAKE IN FIELDS FOR WHICH FAO HAS CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT THE MOST SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE ADOPTED ON THE OCCASION OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING HELD IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR. AT THAT TIME, MR. F.E. POPPER WAS MADE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MEETING.

SHOULD THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY FIND THIS SUGGESTION ACCEPTABLE, I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED IN DUE COURSE SO THAT I CAN MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR FAO REPRESENTATIVES TO BE AVAILABLE AT THE TIME WHEN

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LIVING RESOURCES ARE BEING DISCUSSED BY THE MEETING.
END QUOTE. STREATOR

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